

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-69 were previously cancelled. Claims 70, 71, 73, 75, 88 and 120 are currently amended. Claims 85, 90-110, 117, 118 and 124-133 are currently cancelled. Claims 72, 74, 76-84, 86, 87, 89, 111-116, 119 and 121-123 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-69 (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) A printing blanket unit for a printing blanket cylinder of a printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate including a plate exterior surface with leading and trailing plate ends;

a printing blanket fastened on said plate exterior surface and having printing blanket ends spaced apart in a longitudinal direction of said printing blanket, and a printing blanket exterior surface; and

a filler material on at least a portion of said support plate and being embodied as a support element, said filler material engaging at least one end of said printing blanket and extending radially to, at least in part, past a virtual extension of said printing blanket exterior surface and extending from said at least one of said printing blanket ends in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket at a length greater than 0.1 mm.

71. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 further including at

least one folded end leg on at least one of said leading and trailing endsend of said support plate and including a fold zone at a juncture of said support plate and said at least one folded end leglegs, said filler material being arranged at least partially on said fold zone at said at least one folded end leg.

72. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 71 further including folded end legs at each of said support plate ends.

73. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 72 wherein said filler material is located on both of said ~~folded~~ zones of both of said folded end legs.

74. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said length is greater than 0.4 mm.

75. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket ~~unit~~ unit of claim 70 wherein said length is less than 2 mm.

76. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said length is less than 5 mm.

77. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material has a filler material thickness and said printing blanket has a printing blanket thickness which is less than said filler material thickness.

78. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 71 wherein said at least one folded end leg defines an acute angle with said support plate.

79. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 71 wherein said at least one folded end leg is arranged at said leading end of said support plate of said printing blanket unit.

80. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 72 wherein said folded end leg at said trailing end of said support plate forms an opening angle of between 45° and 150° with said support plate.

81. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 80 wherein said angle is between 80° and 100° .

82. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 80 wherein said angle is between 120° and 150° .

83. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 71 wherein said filler material extends at least partially past said fold zone on said at least one folded end leg.

84. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material extends in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket at a virtual

extension of said printing blanket exterior surface.

85. (Cancelled)

86. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material engages both of said ends of said printing blanket.

87. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 72 wherein said filler material extends around both of said fold zones.

88. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The printing blanket unit of claim 70 for a printing blanket cylinder of a printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate including a plate exterior surface with leading and trailing plate ends;

a printing blanket fastened on said plate exterior surface and having printing blanket ends spaced apart in a longitudinal direction of said printing blanket, and a printing blanket exterior surface; and

a filler material on at least a portion of said support plate and being embodied as a support element, said filler material engaging at least one end of said printing blanket and extending radially to, at least in part, past a virtual extension of said printing blanket exterior surface and extending from said at least one of said printing blanket ends in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket at a length greater than 0.1 mm[.], wherein when said printing blanket unit is mounted on the printing

blanket cylinder, said filler material on said at least one end of said printing blanket is not connected with filler material on another end of said printing blanket.

89. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 88 wherein said filler material on said at least one end of said printing blanket is spaced from filler material on another end of said printing blanket.

Claims 90-110 (Cancelled)

111. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said support plate is metal.

112. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said printing blanket is multi-layered.

113. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material is one piece.

114. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said printing blanket is material different from said filler material.

115. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said printing blanket is the same material as said filler material.

116. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material is placed on said support plate before said printing blanket.

117. (Cancelled)

118. (Cancelled)

119. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 further including a forme cylinder in contact with said printing blanket unit on the printing blanket cylinder.

120. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 119 further including at least one printing plate on said~~the~~ forme cylinder.

121. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 119 further including at least one interruption on a surface of said forme cylinder.

122. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 120 wherein said filler material and said printing plate mutually support each other.

123. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said printing blanket is on top of said filler material.

Claims 124-133 (Cancelled)